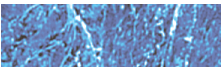


### C.B. Akins, Sr.

C.B. Akins, Sr. was born in Tennessee and raised in southern Illinois. He served in the U.S. Air Force as an interpreter and an instructor and has studied eight languages. C.B. received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky and his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Lexington Theological Seminary. He is author of "From Burden to Blessings" and has served as senior pastor of First Baptist Church Bracktown in Lexington since 1983. He serves on the Midway College Board of Trustees, board of directors of Commerce Lexington, Fayette Education Foundation, First Bracktown, Inc. and as the Chairman of the Trustees at Simmons College of Kentucky. He and his wife, Roszaln, have four children and four grandchildren.



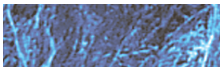
### Dorie Combs

Dorie Combs is a professor in the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University where she is the chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in middle grades curriculum and reading/language arts. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary English education from the University of South Carolina and a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Kentucky. Dorie has 15 years of teaching experience at the middle school level in South Carolina and Lexington, KY. She currently serves as the chair of the National Middle School Association's Professional Preparation Advisory Board. Dorie and her husband, Craig, live in Richmond and have two sons, Christopher and John.



### Billy Harper

Billy Harper is a graduate of Heath High School and the University of Kentucky with a degree in engineering. Billy serves as president of Harper Industries, Inc., a construction holding company consisting of nine construction related subsidiaries with offices in Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas. He serves on the University of Kentucky Mechanical Engineering Advisory Council and helped establish the Paducah Campus Engineering Program. Billy has served on state and national boards for the Council of Economic Education, the Governor's Scholars Program and the McCracken County Board of Education. Billy is also a professional race car driver competing on the ADRL, IHRA, and NHRA circuits. Billy and his wife, Laura, live in Paducah and have four children.



### Stephen B. Neal

Stephen B. Neal of Louisville has served as executive director of the Jefferson County Teachers Association for the past twenty- six years. Prior to serving as JCTA Executive Director, Stephen served as Executive Director of NEA-South Bend and worked for the Indiana State Teachers Association. He is a certified social studies teacher. He has a bachelor's degree from Indiana State University and holds a master's degree from DePauw University. Stephen is a graduate of Leadership Louisville, has served on the Louisville Free Public Library Board and as President of the Church of the Epiphany Parish Council. He and his wife, Linda, have three children and three grandchildren.



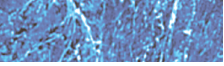
### Katheryn R. Baird

Katheryn R. Baird of Pikeville graduated from Union College with a bachelor's degree in English and has a bachelor's in elementary education from Pikeville College. She has taught kindergarten and 1st grade. Kaye was named to the Union College Hall of Fame of Educators. She has served as a member of the Pikeville Independent Board of Education and the Model City Day Care Board. She is an elder in the Pikeville Presbyterian Church and presently serves on the Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky Board and the education committee of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce. Kaye and her husband, Bill, have three daughters and seven grandchildren.



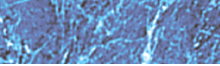
### Jeanne H. Ferguson

Jeanne H. Ferguson of Louisville is an adjunct professor at Jefferson Community College, from which she retired as a full professor. She began her college teaching career at the University of Kentucky. She served as the coordinator of the Speech Communication Program at Jefferson Community College and coauthored a text entitled "You're Speaking, Who's Listening." Jeanne has taught courses at Bellarmine University and Spalding University. She serves on the boards of STAR (Systematic Treatment for Autistic Related Disorders) and the Association of the Louisville Orchestra. Jeanne has a bachelor's degree from Ursuline College and a master's in communication from the University of Kentucky. Jeanne and her husband, David, have one daughter, Virginia Ferguson Cheatham.



### John Douglas Hubbard

John Douglas Hubbard is an attorney in Bardstown. He has a lifelong connection with Bardstown High School as a student, parent, sports volunteer and member of the Bardstown Foundation for Excellence in Education. He has participated in numerous civic activities. He was named Nelson County's Outstanding Young Man in 1968, inducted into the Bardstown/ Nelson County Hall of Fame in 2004 and inducted into the Bardstown High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. Doug holds a bachelor's degree in commerce and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Kentucky. He is married to the former Judy Whitesides from Bloomfield, and they have two children, John and Char Marie Rhoads, and six grandchildren.



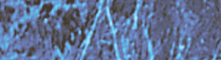
### Brigitte Blom Ramsey

Brigitte Ramsey of Pendleton County holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of Kentucky and undergraduate degrees in economics and international studies from Northern Kentucky University. For the past ten years, she served as a Pendleton County Board of Education member where she maintained a strong focus on individual academic achievement and establishing educational leadership. Brigitte has worked in various research capacities for Northern Kentucky University, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, United Way of Greater Cincinnati, and the University of Cincinnati. Currently, she is working as a tax analyst for Kentucky Youth Advocates. She and her husband, Todd, have four school-age children.



### Wilburn Joe Brothers

Wilburn Joe Brothers of Elizabethtown is the plant manager for the Gates Corporation's Elizabethtown plant. He is a graduate of Community High School in Unionville, Tennessee, and the University of Alabama (engineering) in Huntsville. Joe is a past PTA president and school board member and has served as an officer with the Kentucky School Boards Association, Polyurethane Manufacturers Association and the National Management Association. He has been active in a number of church activities with the Church of Christ, including radio broadcasting and starting congregations in the Ukraine. He and his wife, Dorothy, have five children and ten grandchildren.



### Judith H. Gibbons

Judith H. Gibbons of Lakeside Park is a retired vice president of a professional career management firm. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and has been long involved in education initiatives. As a community volunteer, she has promoted education excellence and stronger collaboration between the business and education communities. Judy serves on the Northern Kentucky University Foundation, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Education Alliance and Education Policy committees, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Vision 2015 Education Implementation Team and is a graduate of Leadership Northern Kentucky. She and her husband, Mike, have three children and two grandchildren.



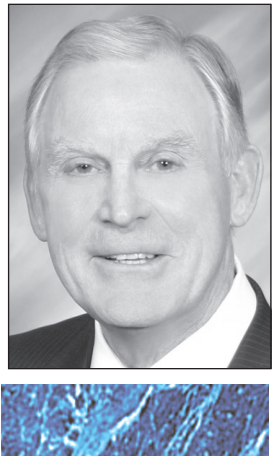
### Austin Moss

Austin Moss is vice president of Human Resources at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville. He is responsible for the delivery of all human resource services for this 830-employee acute care medical center. Austin has more than 30 years of U.S. and international human resources experience in union and non-union environments. He has been a small business owner, substitute teacher, local school board member and member of the Kentucky School Boards Association as well as having served on numerous community and business leadership boards. Austin is a graduate of the University of Kentucky. He and his wife, Teresa, have four children.





**Dr. Jon E. Draud**  
**Commissioner of Education**



In December of 2007, Dr. Jon E. Draud began serving as Kentucky's fourth education commissioner. Prior to this, Jon was a state legislator, representing Kentucky's 63rd District from 1998-2007, and was vice-chair of the House Education Committee beginning in 1999. He also served as director of School/University Partnerships at Northern Kentucky University (NKU). Jon has served as an associate professor at NKU; superintendent of the Ludlow Independent school district; assistant superintendent of Lockland (Ohio) Public Schools; member of the Kenton County Board of Education; and a school principal and teacher. He earned bachelor's (physical education and history) and master's degrees (school administration) from Eastern Kentucky University; a master's degree (political science) from Xavier University in Cincinnati; and a doctorate (school curriculum and administration with a minor in public policy) from the University of Cincinnati. Among his many honors, Jon is a 2007 recipient of the Paul Mason Legislative Advocate for Children Award, presented by the Kentucky Parent Teacher Association. He has been a member of the Southern Regional Education Board's board of directors, and has served on many state government task forces. A resident of Edgewood, Jon and his wife, Beverly, have three children and five grandchildren.

**The Role of the Commissioner**

The commissioner of education is by statute the chief executive officer for both the Kentucky Board of Education and the Kentucky Department of Education. The commissioner recommends and implements Kentucky Board of Education policies and directs the Department of Education in the management of public schools.

**Kentucky  
Board  
of  
Education**

**Board Vision:**  
*Every Child—  
Proficient  
and Prepared  
for Success*



**Mission**

The mission of the Kentucky Board of Education is to be a statewide leader in focusing the efforts of the Kentucky Department of Education, local schools, districts and partners in public education on meeting the individual needs of each child, creating the urgency to reach proficiency and assuring that students are given the maximum opportunity to learn and perform at high levels through high-quality teaching and administration and a strong, supportive environment.

**Kentucky Board of Education**

The Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 created a new State Board for Elementary and Secondary Education. By authority of executive order from the governor, the board's name was changed to Kentucky Board of Education, effective February 1, 1995. The board has 12 members. The governor appoints 11 voting members, seven representing the Supreme Court districts and four representing the state at large. These 11 voting members must be confirmed by the legislature. The additional member, the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, serves as a non-voting member. The members serve four-year terms and may be reappointed. At the beginning of each fiscal year the membership elects the board chair and vice chair. The board appoints the commissioner of education, who serves at the pleasure of the board and receives compensation as set by the board. The commissioner is the board's executive secretary.

**How the Board Functions**

The Kentucky Board of Education meets at least six times a year either at the Frankfort offices of the Kentucky Department of Education or at other locations in the state. The board has three standing committees: management, curriculum, instruction and assessment, and internal audit. Special task forces and work groups are appointed as needed. Board meetings are open to the public, and agendas are set in advance. The board seeks and encourages the attendance of individuals, representatives of professional organizations, and members of citizen groups.

**The Board's Responsibilities**

As mandated by law, the Kentucky Board of Education develops and adopts the regulations that govern Kentucky's public school districts and the actions of the Kentucky Department of Education. This includes management and control of interscholastic athletics, the Kentucky School for the Blind, the Kentucky School for the Deaf and community education programs and services. Department officials follow board guidelines as they both lead and serve public elementary, middle, and high schools. The board is responsible for setting standards for local school districts to meet in student, program, service and operational performance and mandates corrective action when any district does not meet those standards or its leaders are not successful in making improvements. However, the board tempers its legal power with a respect for the local autonomy of each school district. The board reviews the Department of Education's budget requests and makes recommendations to the governor. The board's Strategic Plan provides focus and guidance in carrying out its responsibilities.

**Communicating with the Board**

Members of the Kentucky Board of Education represent all geographic regions of Kentucky. If you have a concern and are seeking the most effective way to bring it to the attention of the entire board, please write to:

*Chair  
Kentucky Board of Education  
1st floor, Capital Plaza Tower  
500 Mero Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
e-mail: MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov*

For additional copies of this brochure, information on State Board meetings, or copies of meeting minutes/tapes, please contact the board's policy advisor:

*Mary Ann Miller  
Office of the Commissioner  
1st floor, Capital Plaza Tower  
500 Mero Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
e-mail: MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov*